GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3974
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
CLOSURE OF SINGLE POST OFFICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make the Postal network services efficient in the country especially in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the proposals in this regard during the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether the Government is going to close down Single Post Offices in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of 'Single Post Offices closed during the last three years, State-wise; and

(f) the reasons for closing the said Single Post Offices in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. During the Eleventh Plan Period, it is proposed to open:

(i) 3,000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices,

(ii) 2,000 Departmental Sub Post Offices and

(iii) 10,000 Franchisee Outlets throughout the country.

3,000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices given in (i) above are proposed to be opened mainly in rural areas of the country.

(c) There is no general policy decision to close down Single handed Post Offices in rural areas.

(d Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) During the last three years viz. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, only 9 single-handed Post Offices have been closed down. State/Circle wise details are given in the Annexure.

(f) Closure of post offices is resorted to in very rare and unavoidable circumstances, e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of buildings and availability of post offices in close proximity etc.